THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the works of airports construction are proceeding as per schedule.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The target completion period of the airport is 33 months from the date of Financial Close. The Financial Close was achieved on 23rd June 2005. The airport is likely to be ready for operation in April, 2008.

Delays in service of private airline operators

2130. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Private Airlines Operators specially Air-Deccan flights get delayed very frequently throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof, operator-wise; and

(c) what is the action being taken to curtail the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air Deccan has informed that their on-time performance is almost at par with other domestic operators. Generally, the scheduled private airlines are adhering to the time schedule. However, at times the flights of all scheduled airlines are delayed due to weather, technical reasons, mandatory security checks, etc. some of which are beyond the control of the airlines.

Fund for security of airports

2131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to spend Rs. 160 crore on surveillance at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to beef-up security at airports across the Country in the wake of Mumbai bomb blasts?